GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3789
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000
VILLAGE HEALTH GUIDE SCHEME
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government constituted an expert committee to look into various aspects of village health guide scheme two years ago;

(b) if so, the number of cities visited by the committee for the assessment of village health guide scheme;

(c) whether the committee has since submitted its report to the Government

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made therein; and

(e) the number of recommendations implemented/under implementation so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For studying the working of the scheme the Committee visited the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal.The Committee had also sent a detailed questionnaire to all States/UTs, seeking their views in the matter.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Important recommendations of the Committee are: (1) the original objective of the Village Health Guide Scheme has remianed mostly unfulfilled. The major objective of providing a functional link between the community and the health care systems has not been achieved (2) Most of the State Governments who are responsible for operating this Scheme have lost confidence in it; (3) The Committee too is of the considered views that it may not be possible, at this stage, to reactivate the present scheme and make it useful for promoting health and family welfare programmes; (4) The Committee has noted that States have tended to ignore the presence of the VHG in their State and have not utilised their services for promotion of health and family welfare programmes; (5) The Panchayati Raj institutions also have not yet been able to make use of the services of the VHGs in a significant manner. For these reasons the Committee has recommended that the Scheme should be closed and discontinued as early as possible. The Committee has also noted that one or two States are still recommending continuation of the Scheme in a modified form. Therefore the Committee has recommended that it should be left to the States to take a final decision in regard to continuation or disbanding of the scheme; but it should not be operated further as a Central Scheme.

(e) The Report of the Committee is currently under examination in consultation with other Ministries.A decision on it will be taken shortly at the appropriate level of the Government.